Trypanosomiasis among Tigers and Lions

*280. SHRI BALAWANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the parasitic disease, Trypanosomiasis, among tigers and lions in various Zoological parks/wild life sanctuaries across the country;

(b) if so, the number of tigers/lions died due to this disease during the last two years, year-wise and sanctuary-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to check the spread of this disease?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) There are no reports of Trypanosomiasis amongst tigers and lions in Wild life Sanctuaries in the country. However, cases of Trypanosomiasis infections have been reported in Zoos from time to time.

(b) During last two calendar years (2002 and 2003) and thereafter, only one tiger had died due to this disease on 14.06.2002 at the Arignar Anna Zoological Park,Chennai. Nine tigers had been rescued from Great Rayman Circus on 14.03.2002 which were housed in the rescue and rehabilitation centre, of which three tigers were affected by this disease. Out of these three animals, two were cured and the third one died.

(c) The Zoos, keeping lions and tigers in their collection, have been directed to carry out periodic screening against blood borne parasitic diseases and take preventive and prophylactic measures.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Farmer Friendly Schemes

1027. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to adopt some new farmer-friendly measures like introduction of comprehensive crop insurance scheme and prevention of sale of spurious seeds in the near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under the review process of National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) it has been felt to make further improvement in the features of NAIS so as to make it farmer's friendly.

It is proposed to replace the existing Seed Act, 1966, seeds Rules 1968 and Seeds (Control) Order, 1983 with new legal instruments to provide for compulsory registration of seed varieties and enhancement of penalty for major and minor infringements.

Use of Organic Fertilizer

1028. SHRI SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are encouraging the use of organic fertilizers in preference to nitrogen-based fertilizers; and

(b) whether it is planned to establish organic based fertilizer plants in Government sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) The Government is promoting Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) which includes soil test based balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilizers including nitrogen based fertilizers in conjunction with organic fertilizers like Farm Yard Manure, green manure, phospho compost, vermin-compost and bio-fertilizers etc. for sustaining soil health and productivity.

(b) The Government is providing financial assistance for setting up of compost plants for conversion of city-waste into compost (organic manure) under Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Balanced and Integrated Use of Fertilizers" which has since been subsumed with Macro Management Scheme.

The "National Project on Organic Farming" is under the process of approval for production, promotion, market development and certification of organic produce during Xth Plan, which includes provision of financial assistance for setting up of organic input production units of Fruits &